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835-007-3

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

CARLSON, *et al.*

Serial No. 09/641,101

Filed August 17, 2000

For BALL VALVE WITH MODIFIED  
CHARACTERISTICSExaminer Keasel, E.  
Art Unit 3754Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

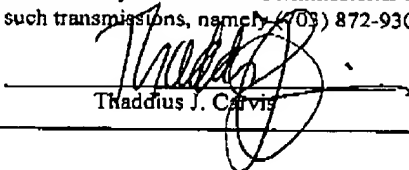
Kindly enter this amendment in support of applicants' Request for Continued Examination filed on October 25, 2004. This paper is responsive to an Office Action issued December 10, 2004.

Each of the included sections of this amendment is presented below on successive, sequentially-numbered sheets. Each section begins and ends on a sheet reserved to it.

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being transmitted by facsimile to Commissioner for Patents at the telephone number provided in the Office Action for such transmissions, namely, (703) 872-9306.

January 4, 2005

  
Thaddius J. Carvis

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**(1) INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-23 and 28-45, all of the claims pending in this application, are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

This amendment cancels claims 23 through 27 and presents new claims 43-45, which are fully described in the original disclosure and eliminate some of the issues presented against other claims in the parent application. All claims are believed to be allowable in the application and over the prior art.